



International Amber Association

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The Regulations of the Peer Court of the International Amber Association

1. The Peer Court (hereinafter referred to as the 'Court') is one of the organs of the International Amber Association in Gdańsk, and acts on the basis of the charter and these Rules.
2. The Peer Court is established primarily to resolve contentious issues and conflicts amicably, through agreement and compromise, by objectively examining the rationale of the parties, and explaining all circumstances related to the case, as well as with concern for the good name and interests of the Association.
3. Furthermore, the aim of the Peer Court is to take care of the legal culture and formation of ethical attitudes of the members of the Association.
4. The President of the Court may, at any stage of the case, appoint a conciliation meeting if this contributes to its amicable conclusion.
5. The Peer Court consists of 3 to 12 ordinary members of the Association, elected by the General Meeting
6. A member of the Board or of the Audit Committee may not at the same time be a member of the Peer Court.
7. The Peer Court elects a Chairman from among its members.
8. The competence of the Peer Court includes assessing the conduct of members of the Association in terms of compliance with the principles and objectives of the Statutes, and resolving disputes between members of the Association at the written request of those concerned, as well as considering written requests of the Board and the Audit Committee concerning infringement of statutory norms by members.
9. The term of office of the Peer Court shall be 3 years, the election of the authorities shall be by open or secret ballot, depending on a prior resolution of the General Assembly.
10. The members of the Peer Court shall elect a Chairman and a Secretary from among themselves and the Rules of Procedure shall be adopted by the General Assembly pursuant to §12 item 11 f of the Statutes.
11. The Chairperson:
 - a) directs the work of the Peer Court,
 - b) represents the Peer Court.
12. the Secretary:
 - a) is responsible for the notification of the meetings of the Court,
 - b) secures the documentation of the Court,
 - c) maintains the register of cases and records of the Court,
 - d) ensures that notes of the Court's meetings are taken.
13. The Peer Tribunal shall be single-instance.
14. The panel hearing cases shall be headed by the President of the Court.
15. The commencement of the sentence shall commence on the date of: the decision of the Court of Second Instance or the expiry of the time limit for appeal against the decision of the Court of First Instance.
16. The subject matter of proceedings before the Peer Court may be:
 - a) violations of the rules of social coexistence in the Association and cases concerning any violations committed by members of the Association,
 - b) violations of the Association's statutes and resolutions of the authorities.
 - c) violations of the rules of use of the Association's mark.

International Amber Association

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17. The case can be brought to the Peer Court by a person interested due to the circumstances of the case, the Board of the Association, the Audit Committee.

18. The Peer Court decides whether to accept the case for decision.

19. The Peer Court does not recognise cases in which proceedings are pending before a common court or a misdemeanour college. They may be taken up after final decisions have been made if it emerges from them that the Association or its members have suffered damage.

20. If the Peer Court does not undertake to resolve the case or such resolution is impossible for certain reasons - it shall notify the party filing the complaint or report of the reason for not resolving the case, informing him of the possibility of referring to the indicated body and returning the materials received.

21. The composition of the panel to decide on the notified case and the setting of the date and time of the meeting shall be determined by the President of the Peer Court. This shall also apply to the date of the meeting of the full Court of Appeal.

22. The Peer Tribunal shall, if possible, consider the request within one month of its submission at the latest.

23. The Peer Court shall notify the persons concerned at least 14 days before the scheduled date of the meeting of the Peer Court, with an obligation on the parties to submit written statements on the subject matter of the case before the meeting.

24. A decision of the Peer Court may be appealed by a member to the next General Meeting within 21 days of the decision.

25. In the event of well-founded concerns about impartiality, an individual member of the adjudicating panel may be excluded from the case, either at the request of the person concerned or on his/her own initiative, and also if he/she is in a relationship of dependence or official superiority.

26. The exclusion of a member shall be decided by the other members of the panel. The Chair shall designate another member to take part in the consideration of the case.

27. Meetings of the Peer Court shall be held in public.

28. The adjudicating panel may, at the request of the parties, exclude the public from all or part of the hearing.

29. The adjudicating panel shall, ex officio, limit the publicity of the consideration of a case when it concerns sensitive issues of personal life or cases of insult and defamation.

30. The hearing of cases shall respect the following principles:

a) presumption of innocence (the accused shall not be presumed guilty until proven guilty in proceedings before the Collegiate Court)

b) the adversarial process (the parties are entitled to opposing views in order to obtain a favourable outcome for themselves)

c) objectivity (the Peer Tribunal should be impartial towards the parties and other participants in the proceedings and should not take a directional approach to the case itself)

d) substantive truth (all decisions should be based on findings of fact consistent with reality. It implies the duty of all factors interacting with the Collegiate Court to discover the truth about the event under consideration).

31. Motions, complaints or appeals submitted for consideration must include:

a) the date of drafting,

b) the designation of the Participant(s) of the dispute to which the allegations relate,

c) description of the allegations,

d) justification, if any,



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e) signature,

f) possible attachments.

32. If the circumstances so require, the applicant shall attach a copy of the application to the opposing party.

33. Copies of the applications filed shall be distributed to all parties to the dispute and members of the Tribunal. The date of filing shall be deemed to be the date on which the documents are delivered to the Chairman of the Tribunal.

34. Immediately after a case is brought before the Collegiate Tribunal, the Chairperson shall set a reasonable time limit for the accused to respond.

35. At the expiry of that time limit, or when all the necessary explanations have been gathered, the President shall set the date, place, proposed form and order of the Peer Court hearing.

36. At the request of the Chair of the Peer Tribunal, hearings of the Tribunal may be held without the physical presence of the members of the Tribunal and the Participants in the dispute, subject to the consent of all.

37. A note shall be drawn up of the Peer Court hearing, which shall contain the following information: date, place, persons participating, subject matter of the case, established facts.

38. The Peer Court may be assisted by experts in matters subject to the tasks and work of the Court.

39. The expenses of the Peer Court, including the costs of legal opinions and other legal assistance, shall be paid from the Association's treasury.

40. In addition to the parties, other persons summoned to the meeting shall also have the right to speak.

41. A representative authorised by the parties may appear on behalf of the parties.

42. The chairman of the panel shall open and conduct the hearing.

43. The hearing shall begin by calling the case, after which the chairman of the formation of the adjudicating panel shall check whether the persons summoned and notified of the date of the hearing have appeared and whether there are no obstacles to the hearing of the case.

44. The chairman of the panel shall ensure that the hearing is conducted properly and expeditiously, taking care that all circumstances of the case, both in favour and against the accused, are clarified during the hearing.

45. The Chairperson of the Tribunal shall have the right to overrule questions which he deems irrelevant to the case or inadmissible.

46. In the event of unexcused non-appearance of an accused person who has been served with a summons to a hearing, the presiding judge may conduct the hearing in absentia if the panel is unanimous. This shall not apply if the formation of the adjudicating panel considers the participation of the accused in the trial necessary, in which case the trial shall be postponed.

47. The chairman of the formation of the adjudicating panel shall, at the commencement of the evidence taking, acquaint the offender with the content of the offence with which he is charged.

48. The accused shall have the right to be present at all actions of the evidentiary proceedings, to ask questions of the persons questioned and to give explanations on the individual evidence.

49. Evidence in support of the charge should be taken before evidence for the defence.

50. Witnesses shall be heard in the absence of witnesses who have not yet testified.

51. The chairman of the panel shall waive questions that he considers irrelevant to the case.

52. After the taking of evidence, the chairman of the panel shall close the evidence and give the floor to the parties, order a recess for deliberation and judgment.



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53. The panel shall decide by majority vote on the issue of guilt and punishment on the basis of the evidence gathered.

54. The deliberation and voting shall be directed by the chairman.

55. A member of the adjudicating panel who voted against finding the accused guilty may abstain from voting on the penalty.

56. The decision shall be signed by the entire panel, not excluding the person voted against, who, when signing the decision, has the right to indicate his/her dissenting opinion on it.

57. If it is not possible to clarify all relevant factual and legal circumstances at the first meeting, the meeting shall be adjourned. The dates of subsequent meetings shall be set by the President of the Peer Court.

58. The Peer Court may apply the following organisational penalties:

- a) admonitions or reprimands, which shall be erased one year after being imposed.
- b) suspension of membership rights for up to 6 months,
- c) expulsion of the member from the Association.

59. Re-election as a member of the Association will be possible after two years from exclusion.

60. The adjudicating panel shall issue a ruling:

- a) to punish
- b) to waive punishment,
- c) acquittal,
- d) an order to discontinue the proceedings.

61. The decision on punishment should include:

- a) the designation of the Collegiate Court of the Association which issued it, the names of the adjudicating panel,
- b) the date and place of the decision,
- c) the name and surname of the defendant,
- d) description of the act allegedly committed by the defendant and indication of the infringed provision of the Statutes, Rules or resolutions of the Association's authorities,
- e) the decision on the punishment imposed,
- f) instruction on the procedure and time limit for appealing against it,
- g) justification,
- h) signatures of the entire adjudicating panel.

62. The decision is announced immediately after the end of the Court session and is sent to the Board for information.

63. The decision of the Peer Court in the form of a decision shall be received by all parties concerned.

64. An appeal against a decision of the Tribunal should contain:

- a) the designation of the decision against which it is brought;
- b) the name, date and place,
- c) a concise statement of the pleas in law;
- d) a statement of the grounds of appeal
- e) an application to alter or set aside the decision, stating the alteration requested or to set aside the decision in its entirety, or to refer the case back to the Court of First Instance.
- f) signature.

65. A note shall be drawn up of the proceedings of the hearings and signed by all members and the Registrar.



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66. The Collegiate Court shall keep a register of cases and documentation.
67. All documentation and attachments shall be kept in the Office of the Executive Board.
68. The Peer Court shall report on its activities to the General Meeting of Members.
69. The work of the members of the Peer Court shall be of a social nature and shall not be remunerated.
70. The Rules of the Peer Court enter into force upon their adoption by the General Meeting of Members of the Association. Any amendments require a resolution of the General Meeting of Members of the Association.

The latest amendments to the regulations introduced by resolution of the General Meeting of Members of the Association of 20.06.2024.